

Sixth Sunday of Easter



**Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032**



***Rev. Gregory Shaffer,
Pastor***

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Pastor: Father Greg Shaffer
202-561-4178 Cell 240-463-9960

Email: frgreg@assumptiondc.org

Secretary: Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams

Phone: 202-561-4178 Fax 202-561-0336

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Pope Francis

Outreach Center : Food Pantry and Clothing Room

Director: Ms. Mildred Brown

Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024

Website: www.assumptionchurchdc.org/outreach

Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



**Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2017**

“Confirmation ...brings a deepening of baptismal grace. It strengthens our relationship to God the Father as adopted children, draws us nearer to Jesus, and increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us. Confirmation intensifies our bond with the Church to help us spread and defend the faith”.

- Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, “We Believe”, p. 96.

Have you been confirmed? If so, are you living it out? Are you spreading and defending the faith with the help of the Holy Spirit?

The quote above is from the book we use for RCIA and adult formation. The sacrament of Confirmation is all about what we do. It is about doing God’s Will. It is about going out on mission for Christ and the Church. It is about living virtue with the help of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (e.g., courage, wisdom, fear of the Lord). It is about bearing the fruits of the Spirit (e.g., love, joy, peace).

If you have not been confirmed, we will have a six-week summer series that you can attend in order to receive the sacrament. The series will run from May 31 – July 5, and be held at the rectory on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Please register by May 29 by calling me at the rectory (202-561-4178) or emailing me at frgreg@assumptiondc.org.

Confirmation is referenced in the readings for today. In the first reading (Acts 8), the Apostles “laid hands on (people who only had been baptized) and they received the Holy Spirit”. This is the sacred action in the sacrament of Confirmation. The current Apostles – the bishops – lay hands on people who are being confirmed, and then they bless them with oil saying, “be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”. That bestows the sacrament on them. This is what Acts 8 is referring to when it says that the Holy Spirit “had not yet fallen upon them”. They had the Spirit within them through Baptism, but had not had the Spirit come over them fully. It’s like with the Apostles: the Spirit came upon them as “tongues of fire” at Pentecost which was their Confirmation. And, what did that do for them? It sent them out. They had been baptized and received the Eucharist, but it wasn’t until they were confirmed that they went out and spread the Good News.

The Lord Jesus refers to Confirmation also in the Gospel (John 14). “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth”. When He says immediately after this that “you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you”, he seems to be indicating the same thing as the first reading - that this is for people who already have the Spirit in them from Baptism. And, it was not long after the Lord said this in John 14 that the Spirit was sent upon the Apostles at Pentecost. So, again, He is promising to send the Spirit upon those who had been baptized in a new and fuller way. We now call this the sacrament of Confirmation.

If you still need the sacrament, please know that it is a good thing if you do the series and get confirmed. Our parish family will celebrate your Confirmation! It will take humility and courage because it will not be an easy thing to admit as an older adult that you have not been confirmed. But, through today's readings and hopefully this column, the Lord is speaking to you about being confirmed. It is never too late to be confirmed! We are never retired from spreading the Gospel! And, of course, there will be additional graces and gifts that the Lord will give you in the process that we can't imagine right now. If you take this bold step, I promise you that He will bless you abundantly. God is never outdone in generosity!

One final reminder: a pastor at a nearby parish made the same offer to his parishioners with a brief series for Confirmation, and 20-30 older adults signed up and were confirmed. Do not be afraid!

May you know the peace of the risen Christ,

Fr Greg

Healing Prayers for: George Thomas, James Anthony Murphy, Queen Bundy, Earnest Ingram, Jr. John Howard, Juanita Watkins, Iris Best, Helena Haley, Dorothy Hollis, Jean Sultzer, Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, Calvin Best, Tracy Stachitis, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Malek Elloit, Kennedy Wood, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Madison McKenzie, Jamil McKenzie, Samuel James Guadalupe, Shawntrice Moore, Bridget Barlow, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Sherri Ewing, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Tiffany Jacobs, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy **Our Homebound Parishioners:** Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Viola Walker

Prayer of the Day for Sunday, May 21

Daily Offering

O Jesus, through the immaculate heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your sacred heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all the apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 16:11-15 Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34 Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8 Jn 16:16-20 Jn 16:16-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18 Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28 Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Mt 28:16-20



Announcements

If you have not been confirmed, we will have a six-week summer series that you can attend in order to receive the sacrament. The series will run from May 31 – July 5, and be held at the rectory on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Please register by May 29th, or by calling Fr Greg at the rectory (202-561-4178) or emailing him at fregreg@assumptiondc.org.

Mother's Day Spiritual Remembrance

In Honor/ In Memory

Barber, Beatrice
Belt Williams, Blanche
Brown, Rosa
Cosby, Agatha
Davidson, Ethel
Haggins Booth, Kim
Haley, Helena
Holmes, Emma
Jones, Lillie
Kenny, Marie-Rose
Mason, Bee
Mason, Mary
Proctor, Martha Louise
Sims, Mildred S.
Smith, Rosalie
Washington, Clara
Wimbush, Mary



Congratulations to Our Own

Murray V. Shackelford, received a Belcher's Degree in History, graduating from Lycoming College in Williams, PA on May 13, 2017.

On May 12, 2017, Murray was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant in the United States Army, Infantry Branch, and will be assigned to Fort Knox on May 22, 2017.

A Job Well Done!

**Congratulations Again
2d Lieutenant Shackelford**

**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AROUND THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**



World Youth Day UNITE

Young adults and families are invited to join in World Youth Day UNITE on Saturday, July 22, featuring artists Audrey Assad and Tony Melendez, TED-style talks by dynamic Catholic bishops, and opportunities for Confession and Adoration. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. This year's festival theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is "The Mighty One Has Done Great Things for Me and Holy is His Name." The event will take place at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC, from 11:30am-10pm. Register online at www.wydunite.com/register.

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER



Juneteenth celebration

Come and celebrate our heritage and culture in celebration of Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17th at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Seat Pleasant MD from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Sponsored by Sisters in the Spirit of the ADW. The guest speaker will be Thelma Lucas, Chaplain Consultant, St. Elizabeth Hospital. This event is for the entire family with entertainment, food and games. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 13. Deadline to register is June 9, 2017. For tickets and more information, please contact Gail Carter 202 .391.5646

May 21, 2017